

Berlin-Brandenburg Capital Region Innovation Camp

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Challenge 1:

How to better integrate Science Park/Innovation Hub activities with local community and societal needs?

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The relations between science and society have been transforming greatly under the pressure of serious societal challenges. For example, the urgency to stop climate change has revealed that many solutions fall beyond mere science and technology factors, but rather they depend on how well scientific reasonings and technological solutions are communicated, understood, accepted and enacted on societal level (Krishna 2013). Active dialogue, inclusive innovation, and blending of local knowledge systems are needed to create the necessary momentum for action. How to achieve such goals with institutional means on regional level?

Leading international research from biotechnology to gravitational physics, training for young researchers and research-based production combine to make Potsdam Science Park in the heart of the fast-growing region of Berlin-Brandenburg into a location with extraordinary potential for innovation. Spread over an area of more than 50 hectares, the science park offers not only ready-developed premises but also excellent infrastructure and ideal conditions for famous scientific research institutes, technology-oriented and research-based companies and innovative entrepreneurs. Institutes and Institutions at Potsdam-Golm Science Park: two faculties of Potsdam University, three institutes of Max-Planck-Society, two institutes of Fraunhofer-Society, the Brandenburg Main State Archive and about 20 small companies (former Start-ups). Nevertheless, Potsdam Science Park is lacking space for the start-up community and a meeting a place for social interaction among people living close by and between them and the science/innovation community working in the Science Park.

The task is to create a new accelerator model that includes office space for start-ups and is opening high-tech and science to local people e.g. through creating a meeting space or jointly using technologies (3D Printing) and space. It should also be attractive for industry to join the community. The task is also to address how the Science Park could help to engage local people with the local associations/NGOs, and researchers/industry for testing environments and meeting spaces.

The aspiration is to serve as a role model for other innovation hubs in Brandenburg and for other Baltic Sea regions and help them build a common identity for the Park & residents.

Challenge 1 group outputs:

- 1.1 A plan with concrete measures and actions to integrate local/social communities and science park/hub community
- 1.2 A proposal on how to design the physical space (place that we want to build), where those communities can meet and match and work together